AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating suitability of a solid phase as a biodisc surface ~~for use in a dual bead assay~~, the method comprising ~~selecting~~ obtaining a biodisc, wherein at least one surface of the biodisc comprises a test solid phase, binding a probe or capture agent to the test solid phase ~~in the presence or absence of a cross-linking agent~~, ~~determining the total amount of probe bound to the test solid phase in the presence or absence of a cross-linking agent,~~ determining the ~~percentage total~~ amount of probe or capture agent bound covalently to the test solid phase, determining the amount of probe or capture agent bound to the test solid phase non-covalently, and calculating the percentage of probe bound covalently to the test solid phase, wherein if no less than approximately 80% of the probe is bound covalently, the test solid phase is a suitable ~~for use in a dual bead assay~~ biodisc surface.

2 – 4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the probe or capture agent is a nucleic acid.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid is double stranded.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the probe or capture agent is a protein.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 or 7, wherein the probe further comprises a linker.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the linker is at least one polyethylene glycol moiety.

10. Cancelled

11. (New) A method of evaluating the suitability of a solid phase as a binding surface in a biodisc, the method comprising:

(i) selecting a test solid phase;

(ii) binding a probe or capture agent to a first and a second sample of the test solid phase, in a first and a second binding reaction, respectively, wherein said first binding reaction comprises a cross-linking agent and said second binding reaction lacks a cross-linking agent;

(iii) determining the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the first sample of the test solid phase;

(iv) determining the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the second sample of the test solid phase; and

(v) comparing the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the first sample of the test solid phase to the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the second sample of the test solid phase, wherein if a ratio of the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the second sample of the test solid phase to the total amount of probe or capture agent bound to the first sample of the test solid phase is less than approximately 0.2, the test solid phase is suitable as a binding surface in a biodisc.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the solid phase is a bead.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the bead is a magnetic bead.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the solid phase is a biodisc surface.

15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the probe or capture agent is a nucleic acid.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the nucleic acid is double stranded.

17. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the probe or capture agent is a protein.

18. (New) The method of claim 15 or 17, wherein the probe further comprises a linker.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the linker is at least one polyethylene glycol moiety.

20. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the test solid phase is attached to a biodisc.